

REMARKS

By virtue of this amendment, claim 1, 3-18, 20, 22, and 23 are currently pending in this application. Claims 2, 19, and 21 have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice. In an January 18, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 18, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,117,031 (“Malinauskas et al.”). The Examiner rejected claims 1, 16, 18, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,578,527 (“Mathers”). Finally, the Examiner indicated claims 2-4, 6-15, 17, 19, and 20 contained allowable subject matter but were dependent on rejected base claims. The applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

While the applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, the applicants have incorporated the recitations of dependent and allowed claim 2 into claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted claim 1, as amended, is presently in condition for allowance. Claims 3-17 depend from claim 1 and, at least by virtue of the dependency, are also in condition for allowance. The applicants also have incorporated the recitations of dependent and allowed claim 19 into claim 18. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted claim 18, as amended, is presently in condition for allowance. Claim 20 is dependent on claim 18 and, at least by virtue of the dependency, is also in condition for allowance.

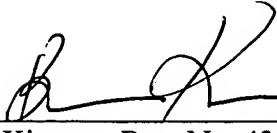
New claims 22 and 23 depend from claims 1 and 18. As the base claims are allowable, claims 22 and 23 are similarly allowable.

No fees are believed due.

Allowance of claims 1, 3-18, 20, 22, and 23 is respectfully requested.

If an extension of time under 35 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this Amendment, such an extension is requested. If there are fees due under 37 U.S.C. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not otherwise accounted for, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2623.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of February 2005.



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